

SECTION 18 - TRAFFIC CONTROL AND VISITATION POLICY.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION.

This policy addresses visitor traffic control which limits or reduces sources of infections for patients. Its provisions are designed to contribute to the safety and health of patients, hospital personnel and other visitors.

II. SPECIFIC VISITOR RESTRICTIONS.

A. Any person (adult or child) demonstrating signs of an upper respiratory illness or other communicable disease is restricted from visitation. If the patient's primary physician feels that a visit by such an individual is paramount to patient's health/recovery, and then, only if proper precautions are taken to prevent spread of the visitor's disease can he or she be admitted.

B. When visiting a patient on isolation precautions, visitors should report to the nurses station for specific instructions regarding proper procedures to observe.

C. Restrictions of Special Areas.

1. Labor and Delivery visitors.

a. Birthing Room – There are no special clothing requirements for visitors present in the birthing rooms. Visitors are limited to two at a time and are instructed in handwashing technique.

b. OR room - C-section patient's parent or the baby's father will undress and don hospital -provided scrub attire to include cap and shoe covers. Handwashing is instructed and enforced.

2. Mother/Baby Unit visitors.

a. Mother/Baby Unit visitation is restricted to spouses, siblings, friends, and grandparents. No other children may visit. Regular street clothes are acceptable. Visitors are screened for signs and symptoms of communicable disease or recent exposure to a contagious illness.

3. Newborn Nursery - Only spouses and grandparents with identification are allowed in the nursery. Cover gowns are no longer required. Staff are instructed and encouraged to wash their hands with a 2% CHG.

4. Intensive Care visitation is limited to two visitors due to the critically ill population. Individuals are requested to stop by the nurse's station before visiting. Children under 12 years of age are not permitted. Visitation hours are 1100-2000. Street clothing is

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acceptable unless otherwise indicated by patient isolation or on request of the nursing staff. The double doors of the ICU to the corridor will remain closed at all times.

5. PACU and Operating Room visitation is restricted. Hospital personnel may not proceed beyond the reception desk of the operating room without proper scrub clothing, cap and mask. PACU personnel will also utilize scrub attire. The doors to these units must be closed at all times. Family members are generally not admitted to these areas. Exception can be made by the operating surgeon or the Head Nurse of PACU.

6. Ward 4A (Medical-Surgical-Pediatric). Parents of pediatric unit patients, when indicated, may remain beyond the normal visiting hours of 1100-2000. It is generally not advisable to bring siblings to visit this area unless previously cleared with the attending physician and Head Nurse.